

What is claimed is:

1. A method of locating information sources in a network environment, comprising:

5 providing a data structure comprising a plurality of nodes and a plurality of key phrases wherein each node relates to at least one key phrase and wherein each key phrase correspond to at least one web page;

receiving a query containing at least one search term;

searching the data structure for key phrases matching the search term;

10 providing a link to at least one web page corresponding to the matching key phrases; and

providing a link to at least one node having a relation to at least one key phrase matching the search term whereby a user can browse the link from the node to find web pages related to the node.

15 2. The method recited in claim 1 wherein the data structure comprises a hierarchical data structure wherein the plurality of at least two nodes have a parent child relationship.

20 3. The method recited in claim 2 further comprising providing at least one link to a parent node of the at least one node whereby the user can browse on web pages related to the parent node.

25 4. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein each node may comprise a category.

5. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein each node may comprise a concept.

6. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the web pages are maintained by web sites.

5 7. The method as recited in claim 6 wherein the web sites are part of an intranet.

8. The method as recited in claim 6 wherein the web sites are part of the Internet.

10 9. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the data structure is maintained by a search engine.

10. The method as recited in claim 2 wherein the hierarchical data structure is a directed graph.

15 11. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the query is a refined query selected from a set of nodes matching an initial search term.

20 12. A computer-readable medium bearing computer-readable instructions for carrying out the method recited in claim 1.

25 13. A method for locating web sites in a computer network, comprising:
providing a search term to a search engine;
receiving a plurality of links to nodes related to the search term wherein each node has a relation to a plurality of web pages;
receiving a plurality of links to web pages related to the search term;
whereby a user may select at least one link to a web page to display the related web page and select at least one link to nodes related to the search term to display a plurality of links to web pages related to the nodes.

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13. The method as recited in claim 13 wherein said nodes comprise categories.

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14. The method as recited in claim 13 wherein said nodes comprise concepts.

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15. The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the further comprising receiving at least two links for broaden nodes, said broaden nodes having a parent-child relationship with one another wherein one of said broaden nodes has a relationship to the search term and wherein the other one of said broaden nodes has a parent relationship to the one of said broaden nodes whereby the user may select one of said broaden nodes to display at least one web page related to the selected broaden nodes.

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16. The method as recited in claim 15 wherein the parent-child relationship is such that the parent node comprises web pages having a broader scope than the search term.

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17. The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the web pages are maintained by a web site.

~~18.~~¹⁹ The method as recited in claim 17 wherein the web site is part of an intranet.

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19. The method as recited in claim 17 wherein the web site is part of the Internet.

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20. A computer-readable medium bearing computer-readable instructions for carrying out the method recited in claim 13.

Rule 126

Year	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	

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21. A system for locating web sites in a network, comprising:

A server computer having a directory of nodes wherein at least one node contains a plurality of web sites related to a first concept and a category related to the first concept and wherein the nodes are arranged in a hierarchical order such that a node having a concept narrower than the first concept is lower in the hierarchy and a node having a concept broader than the first concepts is higher in the hierarchy;

A client computer in communication with the server computer wherein when the client computer communicates a search term related to the at least one node so that the client computer receives the plurality of web pages and the category related to the at least one node.

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22. The system as recited in claim 21 wherein the network is an intranet.

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23. The system as recited in claim 21 wherein the network is an Internet.

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24. The system as recited in claim 21 comprising a second node wherein the second node is broader in concept than the at least one node.

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25. The system as recited in claim 21 comprising a second node wherein the second node is narrower in concept than the at least one node.

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26. The system as recited in claim 21 wherein the hierarchical order is in the form of a directed graph.